

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Prime Minister paid an official visit to Iran, a country with which India shares deep historical ties and civilisational and cultural affinities, from 10—13 April, 2001. During PM's visit both sides discussed issues relating to cooperation on bilateral, regional and international matters. On Afghanistan, while agreeing that a military solution to the civil conflict in Afghanistan was not possible, PM and President Khatami expressed deep concern over the growth of extremism and threat of terrorism and illegal trade in narcotics emanating from the area of extremists. Both sides agreed to enhance mutual cooperation for safeguarding peace and stability in the region which was witnessing the rise of extremists forces, terrorism and increased flow of illicit drugs.

Both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and recognised the threat to national states and international peace and stability from international terrorism and extremism. PM and President Khatami also condemned states that aid, abet and directly support international terrorism.

PM and President Khatami of Iran signed the 'Tehran Declaration', which embodies their vision of cooperation based on shared concerns, common aspirations and shared complementarities for the benefit of the two peoples and of the region and world at large. In addition, agreements on (i) Trade and Economic Cooperation and (ii) Customs Cooperation and MOUs on, (iii) Information Technology, (iv) Cooperation in the field of Energy, (v) Cooperation in the field of Power (conventional and non-conventional sources) and (vi) Technical Cooperation were signed.

Global efforts to combat poverty

4462. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to step up global efforts to combat poverty, the Prime Minister has suggested creation of a global poverty alleviation fund through international levy on capital flow among the developed countries and all repatriations from developing countries;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister's suggestion has been welcomed by the developing countries;

(c) if so, whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether this fund would also help in placing technologies that save lives, increase food yields, generate renewable energies for rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Inaugurating the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2001, on Feb 7, 2001, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee stated that the imposition of an international levy on capital flows between developed countries, and all capital repatriations from developing countries should be considered. He stated that the proceeds could be credited to a Global Poverty Alleviation Fund, which could, *inter alia*, have the following objectives:

- Poverty alleviation programmes specifically targeted at those who have lost their livelihoods in economic crises brought about by reversal of external capital flows in developing countries.
- Enhancement of skills and increased access to finance needed by the poor to compete effectively in the global economy.
- Placing technologies that save lives, increase food yields, generate renewable energy for rural areas, and facilitate the adoption of clean production, in the public domain, for use by developing countries.

The Prime Minister's remarks formed a part of the other suggestions in his speech for sustainable development and poverty eradication, including enhancement of resources of multilateral and bilateral development and poverty eradication, including enhancement of resources of multilateral and bilateral development agencies, use of information technology for development, and greater global cooperation to deal with natural calamities. These suggestions

[26 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

reinforce the views expressed by the developing countries that globalisation requires international safety nets for the poor on a global scale, and that multilateral bodies have to consider this aspect while promoting growth, especially pro-poor oriented growth.

Attacks on Indian living in Malaysia

[†]4463. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian living in Malaysia have been attacked;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step for their safety; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. Ethnic clashes between Malays and Malaysian citizens of Indian origin broke out on 8th March 2001 in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur. Indian nationals were not involved in the clashes, yet they fell victims to the violence. According to the official estimates six persons including one Indian national and four Malaysian Indians have died in the violence.

(b) and (c) Every possible help was extended by our High Commission to the Indian national who was injured and to the family of the deceased Indian national. Government of India have conveyed our concern appropriately through Diplomatic channels to the Government of Malaysia regarding attacks on Indian nationals. However, the clashes between different ethnic groups of Malaysian citizens is an internal matter for the Government of Malaysia to solve.

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.